

5-13-99

FACT SHEET

FINAL AIR TOXICS FOR WOOL FIBERGLASS MANUFACTURING

TODAY'S ACTION...

- ◆ The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is issuing a final regulation to reduce emissions of air toxics from wool fiberglass manufacturing. Air toxics, also known as hazardous air pollutants, are those pollutants that are known or suspected of causing cancer or other serious health and environmental effects.
- ◆ Wool fiberglass manufacturing facilities produce wool fiberglass from sand, feldspar, sodium sulfate, anhydrous borax, boric acid, or other materials. Wool fiberglass is used to manufacture products such as building and pipe insulation, and specialty insulation products. Air toxics are released during the production of wool fiberglass.

WHAT ARE THE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS?

- ◆ EPA's regulation will reduce emissions of the hazardous air pollutant, formaldehyde, from wool fiberglass manufacturing plants by 580 tons per year, a 30 percent reduction from current levels. This rule will also reduce emissions of phenol and methanol but these reductions cannot be quantified.
- ◆ EPA's regulation will also reduce emissions of particulate matter (PM) from glass melting furnaces at wool fiberglass manufacturing plants by 840 tons per year. Emissions of toxic metals, including compounds of arsenic, chromium, and lead, will be reduced by 20 pounds per year, representing a reduction of 30 percent from current levels.
- ◆ All of the air toxics reduced by today's rule can cause adverse health effects following exposure. Additionally, arsenic is a known human carcinogen, and lead and formaldehyde are considered probable human carcinogens.

BACKGROUND

- ◆ Under the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, EPA is required to regulate emissions of 188 listed toxic air pollutants. (Note that this list originally contained 189 pollutants, but EPA has subsequently removed the chemical caprolactum from the list.) On July 16, 1992, EPA published a list of industrial source categories that emit one or more of these air toxics. For listed categories of "major" sources (those that emit 10 tons/year or more of a listed pollutant or 25 tons/year or more of a combination of pollutants), the Clean Air Act requires EPA to develop standards that require the application of stringent air pollution controls, known as maximum achievable control technology (MACT).

- ◆ EPA's published list of industry groups (known as "source categories") to be regulated includes major sources that manufacture wool fiberglass. The proposed regulation was published in the Federal Register on March 31, 1997 (62 FR 15228).
- ◆ A supplement to the proposed regulation was proposed in the Federal Register on February 12, 1999 (64 FR 7149). The EPA will give careful consideration to all comments on the supplemental proposal and will amend the final regulation in a future action as appropriate.

WHO WILL BE AFFECTED BY EPA'S RULE?

- ◆ There are a total of 21 wool fiberglass manufacturing plants nationwide that will be affected by today's rule (there are 27 plants nationwide currently in operation, however six of them are not major sources or do not have manufacturing lines subject to the standard and therefore are not subject to the regulation).
- ◆ The rule applies to new and existing glass manufacturing furnaces; new and existing rotary spin (RS) manufacturing lines producing building insulation; new and existing flame attenuation (FA) manufacturing lines producing pipe products, and new FA manufacturing lines producing heavy density insulation products.

WHAT DOES EPA'S RULE REQUIRE?

- ◆ EPA's regulation applies to RS and FA manufacturing lines and glass melting furnaces. Emission reductions will be achieved entirely from affected RS manufacturing lines and glass melting furnaces. No emission reductions from FA manufacturing lines are projected because they are already in compliance with the regulation and EPA anticipates that no new FA manufacturing lines will be built in the future.
- ◆ The rule sets limits for formaldehyde emissions from most RS manufacturing lines and certain FA manufacturing lines. Formaldehyde is a toxic air pollutant and is a surrogate for phenol and methanol, which are also emitted from RS and FA manufacturing lines producing bonded wool fiberglass products. Today's action also includes new emission test methods (methods 316 and 318) for the measurement of formaldehyde emissions.
- ◆ EPA's rule also sets emission limits for PM emissions from new and existing glass melting furnaces. PM emissions are surrogate for metal hazardous air pollutant (compounds of arsenic, chromium, and lead) emissions. The limits are based on the use of certain air emission control devices, a baghouse or electrostatic precipitator (ESP), to collect PM emissions including metal hazardous air pollutants.

- ◆ Owners and operators also have to comply with the monitoring, recordkeeping, and reporting requirements that are outlined in the rule.
- ◆ EPA's rule provides flexibility to industry by formulating the standard for manufacturing lines as a line standard encouraging process modifications and pollution prevention alternatives instead of costly add-on controls and by using surrogate pollutants to reduce the monitoring and emissions testing costs.

HOW MUCH WILL TODAY'S RULE COST?

- ◆ EPA estimates nationwide capital and annualized costs attributable to the rule to be \$19.5 million and \$6.3 million, respectively, for existing sources.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION...

- ◆ Interested parties can download the rule from EPA's website on the Internet under "recent actions" at: <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg>. For further information about today's rule, contact Mary Johnson of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-5025.
- ◆ EPA's Office of Air and Radiation's home page on the Internet contains a wide range of information on the air toxics program, as well as many other air pollution programs and issues. The Office of Air and Radiation's home page address is: <http://www.epa.gov/oar>.